expenses, expenses on running and maintenance of Chauffeur Driven Cars termed as 'Staff Cars' TA/DA and ex gratia payments allowed to ITDC employees during 1986-87 to 30th June, 1990, unit/division/department/sectionwise indicating expenses/payments to Executives and Non-executives separately and the number of beneficiaries in each case;

(b) the number of daily wage employees and contracting firms engaged in the above-said activities/units/division of ITDC for supplying the man-power and payments made to them in lieu thereof by each department/unit/section during the above period; and

(c) whether any efforts have been made to reduce the non-plan expenditure in ITDC, if so, what are the details thereof head-wise as carried out by each division during above period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SATYA PAL MALIK) : (a) The requisite information on overtime, TA/DA including local and fixed conveyance reimbursement, running and maintenance of staff cars, ex-gratia and entertainment for the period 1986-87 to 1989-90 (provisional) as given at statements A, B, C, D and E respectively; [*See* Appendix CLV Annexure 126] similar information for the period April to June, 90 is not available as the accounting year terminates in March every year. The break-up of the aforesaid expenses separately for executives and non-executives as also the number of beneficiaries in each case is not being maintained in ITDC.

(b) Separate information in this regard is not being maintained in ITDC.

(c) The activities of ITDC fall within the ambit of service industry and the expenditure on the various heads is done keeping in view the operational requirements. Every effort is made to reduce such expenditure.

Measures to save Dibrugarh from erosion caused by the Brahmaputra

3537. SHRI AMRITLAL BASUMATARY : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Dibrugarh, a tea town of Assam has been threatened by the Brahmaputra owing to erosion upstream in the east of Dibrugarh; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to stop erosion by the Central Water Commission to save the town and what progress has so far been made in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) The Government of Assam proposes to undertake additional anti-erosion scheme as per the model studies conducted at Central Water Power Research Station, Pune.

Special Deposits Scheme for NRIs in Middle East Countries

3538. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has launched a new scheme known as Special Deposit Scheme for the benefit of NRIs in Middle East Countries; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI) : (a) and (b) NRIs located in the Middle East have been suggesting for some time introduction of a FCNR Account Scheme with facility of withdrawal of full or part of the sum deposited without notice and providing exchange protection to the depositer. Accordingly FCNR—Special Deposit scheme for the Middle East has been designed with the following salient features :

(1) The scheme is open to Non-resident Indians as well as Overseas Corporate Bodies (OCBs) owned by Indians resident in the Middle East.

(2) Deposits will be designated under the scheme only in U.S. Dollars.

(3) Deposits can be placed with designated Branches of any Authorised Dealer in India.

(4) The deposit will be open-ended in terms of the period and therefore will not have a definite term.

(5) Accounts under the scheme can be opened provided fund for the purpose are transferred to India in an approved manner from the country of residence of the prospective account holder or from any other foreign country in the External group.

(6) Balances can be withdrawn fully or partially by means of instructions conveyed to the Bank withdrawal from the Account.

(7) No interest will be payable on balances standing to the credit of the Accounts maintained under the scheme.

(8) The exemptions in regard to Wealth Tax and Gift tax as applicable to balances under the existing FCNR scheme would also be applicable to balances held under this scheme.

The scheme has come into effect from 21st August, 1990.

Indian Banks Association request for providing Fiscal Concession for Bank Deposits

3539. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Banks Association has requested Government to provide fiscal concessions for bank deposits as are available to the other comparable savings instruments in the country; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Bank Deposits enjoy fiscal concessions under Section BOL of the Income-Tax Act. However, Banks have been requesting for increased fiscal concessions for Bank Deposits as a measure to accelerate deposit mobilisation.

Introduction of irrigation system in Andhra Pradesh

3540. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether lift irrigation system has been introduced in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) If so, the names of the districts and areas where it has been introduced and the irrigation potentials developed through the system; and

(c) the steps being taken to bring more areas under this system ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, lift irrigation schemes are being taken up by Andhra Pradesh State Irrigation Development Corporation Ltd. and are spread-over in all the 22 districts of the State of Andhra Pradesh. Irrigation potential created through surface lift irrigation and ground water in the State is 56345 ha. and 103311 ha. respectively.

(c) Action Plans are being prepared every year to bring more areas under this system.

Evaluation of major irrigation projects in terms of increase in Agricultural Production

3541. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that an expert committee made an evaluation of the major irrigation projects in terms of the increase in agricultural production;

(b) if so, what was the average increase in agricultural production per year in Andhra Pradesh during the last five years project wise; and

(c) what was the expenditure incurred on each of these projects and the benefits derived from each annually after their implementation, year-wise in terms of money ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.